



The Sunday Supplement

Issue 12: 6th June 2020

Call to Worship

Come with your questions, come with your awe!

For the God who broods over the chaos
meets us in this place.

**Come with your energy, come with your
weariness!**

For the God who breathes new life into the dust
meets us in this place.

Come with your sadness, come with your joy!

For the God who dared to become human
meets us in this place.

Katherine Hawker



Reading

Matthew 28:16-20



Caring for Our Neighbours: A Pandemic Pastoral Prayer

In these days of knowing, not knowing,
We, like the buds on the trees,
Are eager to burst forth into the world.
Hold us gently in place
Until we are certain in the ways of loving
our neighbour.

Let us not toss ourselves and neighbour
into thoughtless harm.

Let us recall that all life is sacred in your
eyes,
not only that of the unborn child,
but also those with lines of life lived
etched upon their hands and faces,
and including those whose immune
systems are compromised.
These, too, are your beloved, whose care
we are blessed to bear.

And we seek blessing upon those
who have answered a call to care for us
in our times of physical healing,
no matter our opinion, our ideology, our
hardship, Lord.
These, we hold in our care as neighbours.

Help us to hear that caring for one
another
is your command on our lives.
Open our ears to hear the tragedy in this
time of coronavirus,
and not only our own anxiety and grief

that may come on blustering words and
tired rhetoric.

Instead, let us think on how we will make
the world a better place.

Instead, let us think on what kindness,
however small,
we might offer someone.

Instead, let us remember that our life is
not our own,
but belongs to you.

Instead, let us dream how we might
enter our communities
to be a beacon of hope for those living in
disorder
to come alongside them while they find
order;
alongside them while they reorder their
lives.

Help us always, Lord, to remember our
promise to you
that we will care for our neighbour as
ourselves. Amen.

*Reverend Brenda Torrie (First United
Methodist Church, Newcastle, Wyoming)*

Thought for the week



Trinity Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost by most Christian churches. Unlike the festivals of Christmas, Easter, and Pentecost, its origins lie not in a biblical event but in church doctrine. The concept of God existing simultaneously as Father, Son and Holy Spirit is both foundational and unique.

Trinity Sunday was established about three hundred years after the death of Jesus. At that time, the Church Fathers were keen to assert the official position on what had become a controversial and divisive theological concept. Despite their efforts the debates and disputes persisted. Over the centuries theologians developed many concepts seeking to explain the seemingly inexplicable. In the meantime, ordinary clerics and churchgoers continued to pray in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Those words come to us from what is known as the Great Commission at the end of Matthew's gospel. Jesus sent his followers into the world with a Trinitarian blessing. Although there is no clear biblical version of a doctrine of the Trinity, Christians accepted the threefold nature of God from the earliest days of church history. The God of their ancestors had come to them in new ways. They had known Jesus himself and had witnessed the empowering of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Based on their experience they KNEW God as three in one.

Pentecost is an annual reminder that God continues to be active in the world. Not only that but God chooses to work in and through humans. Right at the beginning, God chose to work in and through human creatures. Adam and Eve were charged with the responsibility of caring for all that was created when the Spirit of God brought the world into being. At Pentecost, the Spirit was given to human followers who would continue the work begun by Jesus in sharing the love of God with the whole world.

Trinity Sunday is more than an annual opportunity to acknowledge the importance of an abstract doctrine. It is an annual reminder of the responsibility with which each generation of believers is charged. In 2020, God STILL chooses to work in and through humans. The life and teaching of Jesus are our model and our inspiration. The Holy Spirit is our guide, enabling us to both discern God's will and to share the knowledge of the love of God as we are able.

So then, GO! Share your experience of God with an anxious and hurting world. Offer the truth that sets us free and the peace that passes all understanding. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen!



Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
who wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee
perfect in pow'r, in love, and purity.

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy! Merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Blessing

The high point has been reached.
The stone has rolled.
The grave cloths have been folded.
So now simply remember what He has told you...
All authority in Heaven and on earth is His.
As we go from here, let us keep faith in Him. Amen.

